



Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Via Electronic Mail

Subject: Federal Delisting of Grey Wolves

We are writing to express our support for the delisting of the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) in America, echoing sentiments shared by many who have witnessed the remarkable recovery of this iconic species since its initial listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973.

Since the enactment of the ESA, wolves have experienced a remarkable resurgence, expanding exponentially in numbers and range across the United States. This resurgence is a testament to the effectiveness of the ESA in providing crucial protections and fostering the recovery of imperiled species. The successful reintroduction of an experimental population into Yellowstone National Park and Central Idaho in the mid-1990s marked a turning point, leading to a resurgence that has seen wolves reclaim territory in adjoining states and even establish stable populations in Oregon and Washington. The wolf populations in California and Nevada have also been dispersing.

The states empowered by the ESA and guided by their respective wolf management plans, have played a pivotal role in safeguarding and managing wolf populations. Oregon and Washington have demonstrated exemplary commitment to wolf conservation and management, despite three-fourths of their states being under ESA jurisdiction. Both states have implemented robust management and protection measures, leading to the stabilization of wolf populations, and prompting efforts to delist wolves as endangered species.

On November 9th, 2015, Oregon voted to delist wolves in Oregon thus marking a significant milestone in recognizing the success of state-led conservation efforts. Subsequent legislative actions regarding that decision were made and was affirmed by the Oregon State Legislature and Oregon

State Governor in HB 4040 (2016) which underscored the commitment of the state to assume greater responsibility for the management and protection of wolves.

It is evident that the ESA has fulfilled its mandate in facilitating the recovery of the grey wolf, paving the way for successful state-led conservation efforts. Now with stable wolf populations and comprehensive management plans in place, it is time to transition authority and responsibility for wolf management solely to the states. By delisting the grey wolf we can acknowledge the achievements of both the ESA and state conservation efforts while ensuring the continued conservation and sustainable management of this iconic species.

Considering these developments, I urge you to consider the overwhelming evidence supporting the delisting of the grey wolf and to prioritize the transfer of authority to state agencies for the management and protection of this species. We must recognize the recovery of the grey wolf population in the lower 48 otherwise Federal ESA recovery loses its legitimacy.

Respectfully,



Bobby Levy
House District 58



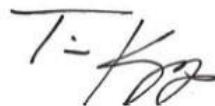
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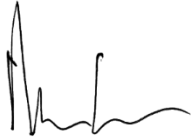
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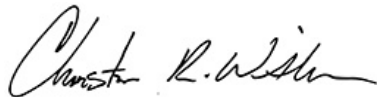
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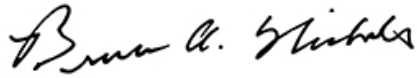
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Geoff Huntington, Senior Natural Resources Advisor

Debbie Colbert, Director Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife